



## **READY FOR SEA**

Seventeenth Coast Guard District  
P O Box 25517  
Juneau, Alaska 99802  
In Alaska (800) 478-7369  
or (907) 463-2810  
[www.uscg.mil/d17/FVSWEB/d17fvs.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/d17/FVSWEB/d17fvs.htm)

- ☐ **Weather**: Evaluated weather forecast. Vessel and crew can handle safely! Can monitor weather reports at sea.
- ☐ **Crew**: Trained and drilled in operation of vessel and safety equipment. Work schedule minimizes fatigue.
- ☐ **Stability**: Scuppers and freeing ports clear. Gear, catch and hatches secured. Limit accumulation of ice.
- ☐ **EPIRB and Communications**: Equipment tested. EPIRB armed and mounted properly. Carry back-up comms.  
*Emergency Call: VHF channel 16      HF frequency 2182 or 4125*
- ☐ **Immersion Suits**: Crew has donned suits to ensure proper fit & good condition. Suits accessible and lights attached.
- ☐ **Survival Craft**: Capacity for entire crew. Serviced, properly installed and crew trained to launch.
- ☐ **PFDs Worn on Deck**: Crew knows to wear PFDs or inflatable suspenders with lights on deck during high risk operations.
- ☐ **Damage Control**: Bilge pumps work. Damage control equipment on board and crew trained in use.
- ☐ **Fire Fighting**: Adequate number of serviced fire extinguishers on board and crew trained in fire fighting.
- ☐ **Safety Exam**: I conducted "Ready for Sea" deck walk/safety inspection and determined vessel safe to sail.

Amplifying details on the reverse

# *Ready for Sea Safety Factors*



## **WEATHER**

- ☐ Weather checked and evaluated. Vessel and crew can handle conditions.
- ☐ Operable weather forecast comms equipment on board. Forecasts monitored.

## **CREW**

- ☐ Drills conducted with every person on board (monthly).
- ☐ Work scheduled to minimize fatigue.
- ☐ Experienced crewmember checked & corrected deck/pot/fishing hazards.
- ☐ Crew knows where the safety gear is and how to use it.

## **STABILITY/OVERLOADING**

- ☐ Hatches operable and secured to ensure the vessel is watertight.
- ☐ Freeing ports unblocked to allow free flow of water off deck.
- ☐ Deck loads & bait shacks properly secured so that they won't break loose.
- ☐ Bin boards in place to keep the load from shifting.
- ☐ Vessel tanked to reduce free surface effect (fuel, water and catch not freely moving in tank).
- ☐ Stability book up-to-date and vessel operated in accordance with guidelines.

## **EPIRBs & COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

- ☐ 406 MHz EPIRB tested within past 30 days, properly mounted and in the ARMED position.
- ☐ Communications equipment operable and adequate for voyage.
- ☐ Every person on board knows how to make a distress call and the frequencies to be used.
- ☐ Emergency power for communications equipment and/or back up handheld VHF radio on board.

## **IMMERSION SUITS**

- ☐ One for every person on board. Stowed in readily accessible location.
- ☐ Each person donned to ensure proper fit and able to quickly don in an emergency.
- ☐ Suits serviceable--zippers waxed and operable, inflation bladder & lights attached.

## **SURVIVAL CRAFT**

- ☐ Large enough to carry every person on board.
- ☐ If craft is a liferaft, serviced within the past 12 months.
- ☐ Every person on board knows how to launch the survival craft.
- ☐ Properly installed so it will deploy in an emergency.

## **PFD/WORK VEST**

- ☐ Crewmembers wear flotation [suspenders, float coats, etc.] when on deck in hazardous condition.
- ☐ Personal marker lights [strobe, fixed bright, etc] attached to the flotation devices.

## **DAMAGE CONTROL**

- ☐ Damage control kits with plugs, wedges, etc. on board and crew trained in use.
- ☐ High water alarms operable. Bilge pumps adequate and operable.
- ☐ Shaft and rudder post(s) checked to ensure no or only minimal leakage.

## **FIRE FIGHTING**

- ☐ Adequate number of serviceable fire extinguishers on board.
- ☐ Crewmembers trained to extinguish a shipboard fire.

## **SAFETY EXAM**

- ☐ Vessel examined by a Coast Guard dockside examiner, classification society, or third party organization to ensure vessel is **READY FOR SEA!!!**
- ☐ Pre-sail **READY FOR SEA** exam conducted.
- ☐ Safety deficiencies corrected and vessel safe to sail.